

TOP SECRET

30 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary  
National Security Council

SUBJECT : Recommendation No. 1, Report of the President's  
Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence  
Activities, dated 24 October 1957

REFERENCE : Memorandum for DCI from ES/NSC, dated 28 October 1957,  
subject as above

1. The recommendation reads:

"As a matter of highest priority, the total resources of the Intelligence Community, under the personal direction of the Director of Central Intelligence, be concentrated on the perfection of the communicating and processing of prior warning of Soviet attack intelligence information in order that the President and other members of the National Security Council may receive timely and accurate information necessary for action."

2. We recognize the extreme urgency of bringing the communication and processing of "prior warning" intelligence to the highest possible peak of efficiency, in order to provide the President and the National Security Council timely and accurate information for action. I have taken steps to have this problem attacked from every possible direction.

a. On 24 October 1957 the matter was called to the attention of the members of USCIB.

b. The USCIB designated an ad hoc committee to study the entire problem.

c. A special panel of representatives of the communications components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, NSA, Department of State and CIA has determined the basic principles necessary for the establishment of a national intelligence communications system.

d. The IAC also has reviewed the problem and concurred in the steps being taken.

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3. In examining the responsibilities of recommendation no. 1, which refer specifically to the rapid transmission of prior warning intelligence, I wish to point out that jurisdiction over the major communications system required for early warning is under the control of the Secretary of Defense. I therefore suggest that the President may desire to refer this phase of the recommendation to the Secretary of Defense in order that he may take such steps as necessary to render more reliable, effective, and rapid the communications required for strategic early warning.

4. It is of course recognized that the problem of prior warning intelligence is not simply one of rapid transmission. Consequently, in addition to the matter of communications, the question of processing the intelligence and getting it to the policy makers for action will also be thoroughly reviewed.

5. The preparation of the requirements which the communications system must fulfill for strategic early warning will be completed at an early date and, if necessary, will be forwarded for approval to the National Security Council.

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ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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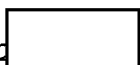
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